

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for determining presence and providing control, comprising:
a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag;
a detector comprising an antenna, an RF interrogator, and an RF controller, the detector adapted to transmit interrogation signals to the RFID tag, to receive and decode presence signals from the RFID tag, and to generate instruction signals; and
a central controller remote from the detector and adapted to receive the instruction signals and control at least one associated device in accordance with the instruction signals.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a card comprising the RFID tag.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one device comprises a computer, and the computer comprises the central controller.
4. The system of claim 3, further comprising a keyboard comprising the detector.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the central controller determines control signals based on the received instruction signals and controls the at least one device in accordance with the control signals.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the instruction signals comprise rules associated with the RFID tag.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein the detector determines the range of the RFID tag and transmits the range to the central controller, the central controller controlling the device based on the range.
8. The system of claim 7, wherein the central controller deactivates the device if the range is beyond a threshold.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein the central controller maintains the current operating status of the device if the range is less than a threshold.
10. The system of claim 7, wherein the central controller changes the operating mode of the device as the range changes.
11. The system of claim 7, wherein the central controller prevents access to the device if the range is beyond a threshold.
12. The system of claim 7, wherein the central controller provides login information to the device, the login information associated with the RFID tag, when the range is less than a threshold and the current operating status of the device is off or if the device is locked.
13. The system of claim 1, wherein the central controller maintains the operating mode of the device based on the detection of the RFID tag.
14. The system of claim 1, further comprising sonar for determining the range of the RFID tag.
15. The system of claim 14, wherein the detector comprises the sonar.
16. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one device comprises at least one of a telephone, a fax machine, and a photocopier.
17. The system of claim 1, wherein the detector is adapted to receive presence signals from a plurality of RFID tags, and the central controller controls the at least one device in accordance with the information received from the RFID tags.
18. A method for determining presence and providing control, comprising:

receiving a presence signal from at least one radio frequency identification (RFID) tag at a detector comprising an RF controller;
generating an output signal in response to the presence signal;
providing the output signal to a remote central controller; and
controlling at least one device, via the remote central controller, based on the output signal.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising searching for the presence of the RFID tag by transmitting an interrogating signal at predetermined intervals.
20. The method of claim 18, further comprising receiving a plurality of presence signals, each signal associated with a different one of a plurality of RFID tags, and controlling the at least one device in accordance with the information received from the RFID tags.
21. The method of claim 18, further comprising decoding the presence signal prior and generating the output signal based on the decoded presence signal.
22. The method of claim 18, wherein the output signal comprises instructions and rules for the remote controller to implement on the at least one device.
23. The method of claim 18, further comprising determining the range of the RFID tag.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein determining the range comprises using sonar to determine the range.
25. The method of claim 23, further comprising changing the operating mode of the at least one device based on the range of the RFID tag.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein changing the operating mode comprises preventing access to the device if the range is beyond a threshold.
27. The method of claim 25, wherein changing the operating mode comprises deactivating the device if the range is beyond a threshold.
28. The method of claim 25, wherein changing the operating mode comprises maintaining the current operating status of the device if the range is less than a threshold.
29. The method of claim 18, further comprising embedding the RFID tag into a portable card, and disposing the detector in a keyboard.
30. The method of claim 18, further comprising providing information to the device, the login information associated with the RFID tag, when the range is less than a threshold and the current operating status of the device is off or if the device is locked.
31. The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one device comprises at least one of a computer, a telephone, a fax machine, and a photocopier.